

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action dated June 22, 2004, the Examiner imposed a Restriction Requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, requiring election of one of the following:

Group I. Claims 1 and 2, directed to a method of drawing a fiber with a temperature controlled muffler;

Group II. Claim 3, directed to a method of drawing a fiber from a tapered preform; or

Group III. Claims 4 through 6, directed to a furnace.

In response Applicants elect to prosecute method claims 1 and 2. Favorable consideration of method claims 1 and 2 (Group I) is solicited.

By the present Amendment, claim 3 has been amended by making it dependent upon claim 1, adequate descriptive support which should be apparent for which should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure. Applicants, therefore, solicit withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement with respect to claim 3 and rejoinder of claim 3 with claims 1 and 2 in Group I.

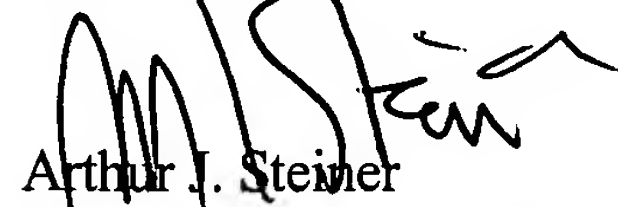
Favorable consideration of claims 1 through 3 is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

10/035,330

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Steiner", is written over the printed name.

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